

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1353

By Hackworth

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate The Boy Scouts of America on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly pause from time to time to pay recognition to those sterling organizations which, over the courses of their existence, have become the standard bearers of commitment, responsible citizenship, education, self-reliance, and character development; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is one such remarkable organization, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on February 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, British General Robert Baden-Powell founded the Scouting movement in England at the turn of the 20th century, and, at the same time, several small local Scouting programs, including Ernest Thompson Seton's Woodcraft Indians and Daniel Carter Beard's Sons of Daniel Boone, were independently forming in the United States; and

WHEREAS, with its stated purpose "to teach patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values," the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was incorporated on February 8, 1910 by W. D. Boyce, with Colin Livingston as its first president, Daniel Carter Beard as the first national scout commissioner, Ernest Thompson Seton as the first chief scout, and James E. West as the first chief scout executive; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America organization has contributed greatly to the lives of millions of young men over the past century, from Arthur Eldred, who became the first Eagle Scout on August 12, 1912, to the two millionth Eagle Scout, admitted to the Eagle Court of Honor in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the Boy Scouts of America can be measured in part by the rapidness of its growth. There were Scouts enrolled in every state by 1912 and, at the first

World Jamboree in London, England in 1920, the Boy Scouts of America was represented by 301 members; and

WHEREAS, the BSA adopted its constitution and bylaws in 1916, received a federal charter in 1916, thanks in part to the valiant efforts of Tennessee Senator John K. Shields, formally launched the Cub Scout program in 1930, and held its first National Jamboree in 1937. That Jamboree was held in Washington, D.C. at the invitation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and more than 27,000 Scouts were in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its one hundred millionth member in 2000; and

WHEREAS, through BSA's three main programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing, young men become prepared to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime while learning character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness; and

WHEREAS, Scouts learn to use the ideals spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan through an informal education system called the Scout Method; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by an estimable community organization and led by respected role models, each scouting unit builds unity and a brotherly atmosphere to transform boys into trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent Scouts; and

WHEREAS, the Great State of Tennessee is proud to be the home of many influential scouts and scouting organizations, starting with the BSA's first unit, Troop 1, which was formally chartered in Knoxville in 1910 by William Perry "Buck" Toms. Today, BSA in Tennessee is led by such noteworthy groups as the Great Smoky Mountain Council in Knoxville, the Middle Tennessee Council in Nashville, the Sequoyah Council in Johnson City, the West Tennessee Area Council in Jackson, the Cherokee Area Council in Chattanooga, and the Chickasaw Area Council in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, at a time when this nation's youth face difficult challenges, the Boy Scouts of America is one of our finest assets, providing young men with an educational program that contributes significantly to their character development, citizenship training, and improved

mental and physical fitness, and it is wholly fitting that they be recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with millions of Scouts and volunteer leaders in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.